



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

HB 681 Income Tax- Credit for Pet-Friendly Rental Dwelling Units

Maryland House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee

February 11, 2022

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on HB 681. It may seem odd that our organization is weighing in on a tax credit for property owners, but we see what the lack of pet friendly housing does to our community, agencies, and organizations. We continue to see pets surrendered to our shelters when people are forced to move and cannot find pet friendly housing, or when property owners decide they no longer want renters to have pets.

As soon as an animal enters the shelter doors the costs begin to accrue. From prophylactic vaccinations, food, litter, possible medical treatment and often spay/neuter. Even an animal that may only be in the in the care of a facility for 7-10 days can cost well over \$200-300 to the shelter and that cost of care for these animals ultimately ends up in the lap of the Maryland taxpayer.

We also appreciate that this is not a mandate for property owners. This in no way requires them to permit pets, it simply provides an incentive to do so.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland believes the passing of this bill is one more tool to keep animals out of Maryland animal shelters and we stand in unanimous support of HB 681. We respectfully ask for a favorable report on this bill.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland